

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Eagles Lions Club marks 1st anniversary, welcomes new members. **PAGE 2**
District Court resets final ruling on Teregeyo to June 21. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 123

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2024

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Drought conditions to improve

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The National Weather Service based off Tiyan, Guam says drought conditions in the Marianas will continue to improve as showers continue.

According to NWS' regional outlook report, extreme drought conditions persist across islands of Yap State, and Rota in the CNMI.

However, gradual improvement is expected as much-needed showers continue to fall on drought-stricken areas.

"Longer-range rainfall trends support a near-normal rainfall pattern for most areas in coming weeks," said NWS.

In addition, a weak circulation/disturbance will bring showers and thunderstorms to Yap and Palau the next couple days. NWS says development is not expected with this disturbance as it heads slowly west.

As for its weather overview, NWS says mostly sunny skies prevail across Guam and the CNMI with only a few spotty showers and east trades around 15 to 20 mph.

"Expect a generally dry trade wind pattern to persist the next several days with winds easing up by the end of the week. Moderate trades and combined seas of 4 to 6

feet will also ease through the week, with gentle to moderate trades and combined seas of 2 to 4 feet expected later this weekend," NWS said.

NWS also notes that patchy showers will persist across the rest of Micronesia.

"A weak tropical disturbance, a poorly defined surface circulation near Palau,

See **DROUGHT** on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Ports Authority Board member Thomas Villagomez raises concerns during a special board meeting last week.

CPA drafts resolution for airline incentive program

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has drafted a resolution to establish an airline incentive program to help lower the cost of landing in the CNMI for airline partners as well as to exempt certain aircraft from paying airport

fees. However, due to some concerns, the resolution has been tabled.

During a special board meeting last week, CPA board members drafted three resolutions; two in relation to the use of Tinian divert lease funds to pay off airport debt, and one to amend CPA regulations to establish an airline

incentive program as well as authorize fee exemptions for certain aircrafts.

Specifically, the third resolution (if passed) would exempt diplomatic U.S. military aircraft, Marianas government aircraft, and other aircraft operators that have a valid written agreement with CPA from paying terminal rental rates, rent for preferential use premises, common use charges, and turn fees.

The first two resolutions

See **CPA** on Page 4

CCC board asks House committee to approve \$3M budget



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Casino chair Edward DeLeon Guerrero submitted a budget proposal in the amount of \$3.15 million before the House Ways and Means Committee for approval last Tuesday.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has asked the House Standing Committee

on Ways and Means to approve its budget request of \$3.15 million which is to be paid by casino investor Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Last Tuesday, CCC board of director chair Edward DeLeon Guerrero submitted a budget proposal in the amount of \$3.15 million

See **BUDGET** on Page 4

Probes continue in Lao Lao drowning, DOC contraband incidents

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

Nearing a month since the fatal diving incident at the Lao Lao Dive Site and the mysterious person throwing contraband over into the Department



Torres



Macaranas

of Corrections courtyard, and although still under investigation, the Department of Public Safety shared that, as of Tuesday, there has been no new development in the cases.

The incidents both took

See **PROBES** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Local father-son entertainers Larry and Kui Lee performed at the Gamgye Acoustic Music Festival in Changwon, Korea on May 25, 2024.

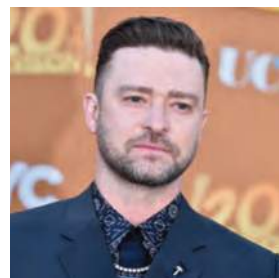
PAGE 5



BUSINESS

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is thrilled to announce "Christmas in July"—a unique midsummer campaign designed to encourage shoppers to support local businesses year-round, not just during the holiday season.

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LIFE & STYLE

Pop star Justin Timberlake was charged early Tuesday with drunken driving in a village in New York's Hamptons, after police said he ran a stop sign and veered out of his lane in the posh seaside summer retreat.

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Local



RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Saipan Eagles Clubs members pose with Region 2 Lions Clubs leaders. Seated from left, Al Cabael, Ana Cabael, Argee Buensalido, Annamae Adaza, Marie Javier, Atoy Banting, Martha Badilles, Eden Mercado, Arceli Lizama, and Alicia Barbo, Tes Marquez. Standing, from left, Yho Villavicencio, Lindie Moleno, and Lolly Velasco.



RACQUEL H. FLOYD

New members show off their membership certificates.

Saipan Eagles Lions Club marks first anniversary, welcomes new members



RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Eden Mercado, Atoy Banting, and Annamae Adaza present Membership Awards to Saipan Eagles Clubs' new recruits.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Eagles Lions Club welcomed new members during the celebration of their first anniversary last Saturday night at The Farm in As Gonno, Koblerville.

Certificates of appreciation were distributed to the new members Flor Inda, Lovelyn J. Constantino, Samy T. Albero, Ressie Sumile, Daria Kintol, Eugene DS. Bo, and Rica Lozarito. The club currently has 67 members not counting the new members who will be start their membership on July 1.

The program was opened with the Lions Club protocol rites, invocation song by Arceli Lizama, and dance numbers from Fitbeat Familia and M2 Fitness.

Instead of the usual Lions Club celebrations that are held in hotels, the event took place on a farm. "A farm setting can offer a more personal and unique experience for attendees, allowing them to connect with nature and each other in ways that a hotel environment might not," said Marie Javier,

the president of Saipan Eagles Lions Club.

The celebration was more focused on the member's appreciation and recognition. "This is to show how the club valued the member's efforts, support, and commitment," according to Javier.

During the event, special awards were also given to Mary Jane Olavario, Maria Javier, Estrella Lontoc, Rosalie Palada, Merlie Mago, Irene Marquez, Mario Rodriguez, Belinda Dela Cruz, Fernando Enano, and Rosemarie Robediso for Complete Attendance Award. Service Award recipients were Rosalie Palada, Estrella Lontoc, Mary Jane Olavario, Marie Javier and Merly Mago. The Membership Award recipients were Maria Javier, Rosemarie Robediso, and Irene Marquez. Humanitarian Award-ees were Eric Constantino, Jose Cruz Sr., Belinda Dela Cruz, Maria Javier, Michael Motol, Mary Jane Olivario, Rosalie Palada, Rosemarie Robediso, Mario Rodriguez, Mauricia Rios, and Jose Rios.

The program ended at 9:30pm.

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Western Pacific Maritime Academy graduates 47

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**

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CORRESPONDENT

Western Pacific Maritime Academy recently graduated 47 students from their program and immediately gave them the rank of midshipmen—setting sail the dreams and opening a wide door of opportunities in maritime for these bright individuals.

The graduation ceremony took place last Saturday afternoon at the Court of Honor at the American Memorial Park in Garapan. The graduates were a mix of individuals hailing from the Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Dr Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School, Tinian Jr. Sr. High School, Da'ok Academy, and the Workforce Investment Agency.

The ceremony drew the cohort's family and friends, dignitaries, and lawmakers.

The graduating midshipmen from Saipan Southern High School were Alwayne Aldan, Yu Ling Chai, Draeshia Manglona, Matthew Peters, and Shyleen Santos.

Marianas High School's graduating midshipmen were Darlyn Atalig, Jiang Banatlao, Peaches Bayot, Jacob Calvo, Josh Reyes, and Hayden Sablan.

Elicyn Aguon Presto, Raymond Borden, Colton Cruz, Zachary Dafrow, Stanley Delia, Marvin Reyes, Leanalyn Reyes, Robbie Salita, Michael Tomokane, Francisco Villagomez, and Kenshiro Yanai were the graduating midshipmen from Kagman High School.

From Dr. Rita Hocog Inos



The Western Pacific Maritime Academy graduated 47 midshipmen last Saturday in the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

Jr./Sr. High School, graduating midshipmen were Alwayne Bermeo, Freya Greathouse, Son Joe Manuel, Jonathan Mereb, Perry Mesngon II, Sophia Song-song, and John Tobonganua.

Noah Cepeda, Jaydora Cruz, Annabel Kiyoshi, Devyani Pandey, Redenald Patio, Moses Reyes, and Hong Zang were the graduating midshipmen from Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.

Da'ok Academy's midshipmen graduates were Frank Baza, Landon Delos Reyes, Canfrancia Fitial, Juan Inos, and Tristan Manglona.

Christian Alepuyo, Michael Busby, Schneider Lanzo, Meagan Smith, Robert Smith, and Kayona Takami were the midshipmen graduates from WIA.

Through their time involved in the WPMA, a non-profit corporation, these individuals were able to undergo maritime training and gain better understanding of seafaring, and will be able to upgrade their mer-

chant marine credentials.

During his remarks, WPMA executive director Capt. Michael W. Bacher highlighted the significance of this milestone, noting that the graduates now have the opportunity to earn substantial income to support their families.

Bacher emphasized that this achievement is not just personal but also a triumph for the CNMI.

"These young men and women are the best among the best that you have here. They really are because they are going to be the ones that are going to support your economy for many years," said Bacher, while adding that one of their

first cohort participants, Jason Tenorio, is now serving off the coast of Saipan.

He pointed out that once working, the new mariners' salaries will be able to cover the cost of their education within the first year of employment, underscoring the academy's positive impact on both the mariners and the broader community.

He said the investment in their education through WPMA costs about \$5,000 per individual. As an entry-level mariner, they can earn \$7,000 a month or \$60,000 a year, and that means through their income taxes, the graduates will be able to pay off

the educational investment in the first month of work. "And there's no other program that is offered here on Saipan with that type of return on an investment."

Bacher also expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the WPMA board of trustees and staff, CNMI government officials, the Board of Education, and the parents and peers who supported the graduates and also the industry leaders who will employ the graduates.

He also acknowledged the vital contributions of high school principals, counselors, Da'ok Academy, WIA, and Commissioner Education Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho. He also shared that due to success of the program, opportunities to expand the program were beginning to open in the neighboring islands of Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Military Sealift Command counsel Tim Murphy was the keynote speaker that afternoon and he highlighted the importance of the maritime industry and the vast opportunities the graduates had in their hands.

"You have learned a trade that is as important as ever. Ninety percent of international commerce is done over the sea."

He looks forward to work with some of these individuals should they choose a path

with MSC. "The ships are not the most important part of MSC... The most important asset of MSC is our civilian mariners. These women and men employed by MSC are the heart... without them there would be no MSC."

He shared that these young mariners had so many opportunities open for them but asked the cohort what path they would choose.

"What path will you choose? Whatever that path is, I can assure you that the key to your success you have learned at home from loving parents and grandparents."

He also shared what his father had done for him when he was also making life choices.

"In honor of all fathers on this Father's Day weekend, I provide you, and honor my father, with a blessing is that he would give me when I was choosing a path and it's the same blessing it's an Irish blessing and an anonymous blessing... and when I share it with you now when you hear the words of the Irish blessing, when you hear the word 'road' think of the journey of our lives, when you think of the word 'wind' think of the guiding hand. In my faith's tradition it's the Holy Spirit, when you hear the word 'sun' think of your blessings, when you hear 'rain' think of collective and individual sorrows."

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District Court resets final ruling on Teregeyo to June 21

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

Upon the request of her defense attorney, the U.S District Court of the NMI granted several days delay to the final disposition hearing for Vickilyn Manglona Teregeyo and set the hearing to June 21, 2024 at 1:30pm.

Teregeyo is in court fol-

lowing a series of violations of her supervised release conditions, culminating in her failure to return to the HOPE Recovery Center. She also has a troubling pattern of noncompliance, which began in December 2023 when she tested positive for methamphetamine twice.

Teregeyo appeared in court last Tuesday, under the custo-

dy of the U.S. Marshals, with her defense attorney David Banes, before Chief Presiding Judge Ramona V. Manglona. Banes requested a three-day continuance before the final hearing, and with no objections from the government and representing attorney, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Manglona and the court granted the request but required

that Teregeyo remain detained with the U.S. Marshal pending the disposition hearing.

U.S. probation officer Gregory Arriola was also in court for the hearing and updated the court on the positive sweat patch applied May 24, 2024, and removed May 30, 2024. He also further updated the court that he had just been notified

that morning that Teregeyo had been removed from the HOPE Recovery Program due to the fact she had not returned. He shared that HOPE Recovery center has a 48-hour policy if a person takes a leave and does not return within the 48 hours it automatically terminates them from the program.

Manglona told Banes that although she is for the recovery of individuals and understands there are strug-

gles in the battle with substance abuse, her concerns were Teregeyo's constant avoidance in court and to U.S. Marshals, and contradictions made by the defendant's actions. She shared that although she is willing to grant the extension, Teregeyo needed to be remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal. After the hearing Teregeyo was handed back over to the U.S. Marshal until her next appearance in court this Friday.

US Coast Guard 'Lina'la Halom Tasi Exercise 2024' begins next week

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has announced that the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam is conducting their full-scale exercise, "Lina'la Halom Tasi Exercise 2024" on Saipan from June 25 to 27.

Starting from June 25, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam will be conducting its annual Lina'la Halom Tasi Exercise, a simulated oil spill exercise.

HSEM special assistant Franklin Babauta said this ex-

ercise is a great opportunity to improve the CNMI's response capabilities when it comes to emergencies.

"The U.S. Coast Guard is conducting their training for the Incident Command System (ICS) Section Chief Training for HSEM and other local government agencies. This is a great opportunity to improve our functions at the Emergency Operations Center and the response capabilities of our local government agencies during emergencies. The community should expect minimal to no disruption to traffic and their daily activities. Most of the training will be conducted

indoors," he said.

To clarify, although the exercise is of a simulated oil spill, no fuel or oil will be spilled in the ocean.

Members of the community and visitors may observe an increased presence of Coast Guard personnel and equipment in the Tanapag Harbor area.

The full-scale exercise will occur at the Emergency Operations Center and the Tanapag Harbor.

The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct a personnel training exercise at the Emergency Operations Center on June 25, 2024, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Equipment drills will be

conducted at the Tanapag Harbor on June 26, 2024, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

The exercise and after-action review will be conducted at the Emergency Operations Center on June 27, 2024, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Exercise objectives are as follow:

- Demonstrate and test the ability of the responsible party and responding organizations
- Demonstrate the ability to dispose of recovered material and contaminated debris
- Demonstrate the ability to establish effective communications systems for the

response, including internal, intra-organizational, and external communications.

"Lina'la Halom Tasi Exercise 2024" will see participation from a variety of agencies and organizations including the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, U.S Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Ser-

vices, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Public Works, Public School System, and Isla Petroleum and Energy.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management encourages the public to remain aware of exercise activities and follow any instructions from local authorities.

DROUGHT

From page 1

is labeled as Invest 96W by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. Patches of showers and thunderstorms persist in the broad region surround-

ing this disturbance. Expect a relatively light and variable wind pattern in place through Thursday. Gentle trades will build in by the weekend with a showery trade-wind pattern into next week. Farther east, across Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Majuro, an active

ITCZ is generating showers and thunderstorms near Pohnpei and Chuuk, while drier weather persists near Kosrae and Majuro. The ITCZ will remain relatively active across Pohnpei and Chuuk, keeping a showery pattern in place through the

weekend. Drier weather will persist farther east, but the ITCZ could extend eastward, bringing showers to Kosrae and Majuro this weekend into next week. Expect moderate trades to prevail through the weekend," said NWS.

CPA

From page 1

were passed unanimously by all seven members but due to some concerns, the board had to table the last resolution to allow ample time to discuss concerns.

Board member Thomas Villagomez raised concerns about the exemption stating that he would like to further discuss the details.

In addition, Villagomez said the resolution lacked figures and would like a special committee to provide the board with numbers and specifics like if a 50% discount is implemented for airline partners,

would it be 50% of the original 2022 rate methodology, or would it be 50% of the adjusted rate implemented back in 2023.

CPA board chair Joe Ayuyu, for his part, appointed board member Doris Kiyoshi to head the special committee and asked that she form a team to come up with these figures as soon as possible.

CPA is set to discuss the establishment of an airline incentive program today during another special board meeting.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, as a way to implement an airline incentive program to help lower current landing and airport fees for airline partners, CPA unani-

mously approved two resolutions in relation to authorizing the use of Tinian divert lease funds to pay off the airport's 1998 senior bonds amounting nearly \$6 million.

By paying off the airport's 1998 senior bonds, CPA would be able to implement an airline incentive program to lower the current rates and fees airline partners must pay to do business in the CNMI.

The current airport rates and fees have been a concern for all CNMI's airline partners, even partially resulting in the closure of Asiana Airlines.

With seven yes votes, the CPA board of directors unanimously voted in favor of adopting two resolutions; the

first one authorizing the expenditure of up to \$8 million of the divert lease funds, and the second authorizing CPA to deposit up to \$6 million of the funds to the Optional Redemption Fund Account under Bank of Guam (the trustee of the 1998 Airport Bond Agreement) exercising CPA's right to redeem itself from the entirety of the 1998 bond agreement.

"Our economy is really dying, and we cannot continue to live the way we have. We must become more creative. I understand the money is for Tinian, but we are facing an emergency where we have to make a decision that would be best for the CNMI," said Ayuyu.

PROBES

From page 1

place mid-May just days apart from each other with the contraband incident happening on May 22 and the drowning on May 17.

According to the Department of Corrections on May 22, at 9:39am, a man was seen hurling an object over the DOC fence into the DOC's full court as inmates were spending recreational time playing basketball. A search immediately went underway, and a description of the suspect, and even security footage was released but as of now the case is still unsolved.

DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres shared with *Saipan Tribune* that, on his end, their investigations haven't stopped.

"I have been checking up on that and following up everyday with my Internal Affairs Unit and DPS detectives. There are a few leads and a few suspects they are looking into."

Torres was also able to shed light on just what the contraband was.

"Upon initial recovery of the contraband, it was first thought to be tobacco; however, to rule out my assumption of it being spice or synthetic marijuana, I asked DPS to test it. It tested positive for marijuana. The compounds found in spice can vary, and they are not easily detected by typical drug tests that screen for THC or other common drugs." He encourages anyone in the community who may have some information to please share it.

that can help the investigation."

As for the fatal drowning, investigation has begun after a 41-year-old Chinese man drowned at the Lao Lao Dive Site last May 17. Upon further investigation DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas revealed that DPS discovered Qi Wei Shi, the supposed dive instructor, fled the CNMI within 24 hours of the incident, taking his family back to China. Authorities discovered Shi was operating an unlicensed dive shop and lacked certification as a dive instructor.

During the investigation, it was found that the dive equipment used in the incident had been left at a Koblerville rental car shop. The gear was picked up by unknown individuals before DPS could retrieve it. Fortunately, DPS managed to recover the equipment and GoPro footage, which were put under forensic examination. DPS has not yet released the updates on the footage.

During a press conference last May 24, Macaranas emphasized that while the case is currently treated as a drowning, the investigation could lead to other charges. He noted the cooperation issues with some involved parties, but efforts are ongoing to gather all necessary information. He also noted DPS' commitment to uncovering the full circumstances of the incident and holding those responsible accountable, especially highlighting the dangers of operating unlicensed businesses in the CNMI.

As the investigations continue, DPS is still open for any tips community members may have that could lead to solving these cases, and encourage individuals who may have new information to call (670) 664-9000 or Crime Stoppers at (670) 234-7272.

BUDGET

From page 1

before the Way and Means Committee for approval.

Pursuant to Public Law 19-24, CCC must submit a budget proposal (which will be paid by operator) whether IPI has the means to do so or not.

"Under Public Law 19-24, \$3 million which increased by 5% each year, is earmarked for the CCC but we need the leg-

islature to appropriate it every year. CCC must justify how it will be spent," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero explained that the public law was designed so that the operator was the one to pay, not taxpayers.

However, during the hearing, a heated exchange arose between DeLeon Guerrero and Rep. Marissa Flores (D-Saipan) who stated that she was not comfortable appropriating over \$3 million to CCC when other agencies

are struggling too.

DeLeon Guerrero, in response, clarified that the funds they are requesting doesn't come from the general government fund but from IPI.

"It's not coming from the source that you have control over," DeLeon Guerrero said.

Meanwhile, DeLeon Guerrero shared that despite all the negative experience everyone has had with IPI, IPI performed remarkably well on the gaming side of things.

"Where they really messed up was in the non-gaming area (labor, construction) and I keep hearing rumors about money laundering, but I have not seen to date any indictment against IPI regarding money laundering for gaming. We are not responsible for labor, we are not responsible for [Occupational Safety and Health Administration], we have no authority over non-gaming aspects," he said.

Da Kine performs in Korea

Local father-son entertainers Larry and Kui Lee performed at the Gamgye Acoustic Music Festival in Changwon, Korea on May 25, 2024. This

is the second time that their ukulele band, known as Da Kine, was featured at an international music event, after performing at the Funabashi

Hawaiian Festival in Chiba, Japan in 2017.

"We are very excited and honored to represent the Marianas at this awesome interna-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The father-and-son band of Larry and Kui Lee, known as Da Kine, performed at the Gamgye Acoustic Music Festival in Changwon, Korea last May 25.

New Caledonia reopening international airport, shortening curfew as unrest continues to ebb

PARIS (AP)—The French Pacific territory of New Caledonia is shortening its overnight curfew and reopening its international airport that was closed to commercial flights for more than a month because of deadly violence that wracked the archipelago where pro-independence Indigenous Kanaks want to break from France.

La Tontouta airport that links New Caledonia's capital, Nouméa, to Sydney, Tokyo, Singapore and other Pacific hubs will reopen Monday, the territory's high commissioner announced in a statement Sunday.

The overnight curfew is also being shortened by two hours, its start pushed back from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., because of "the improvement in the situation and in order to facilitate the gradual return to normal life," the high commissioner said.


Violence that flared on May 13 over controversial voting reforms led to nine deaths, including two gendarmes, and widespread destruction of shops, businesses and homes. Tourists trapped by the airport's closure were evacuated on military flights.

With France now plunged into frenzied campaigning for snap parliamentary elections, French President Emmanuel Macron has suspend-

ed the reforms that would have altered voting rights in New Caledonia. The revolt prompted France on May 15 to impose a state of emergency on the archipelago and rush in reinforcements for police who were overwhelmed by armed clashes, looting and arson.

Both sides of New Cale-

donia's bitter divide—Indigenous Kanaks who want independence and those loyal to France—erected barricades, either to revolt against authorities or to protect homes and properties. Pro-independence protesters erected barricades of charred vehicles and other debris, turning parts of Nouméa into no-go zones.



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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **June 13, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 02, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on July 09, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of
Procurement Services



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Larry and Kui Lee pose with Blues Lee in front of the Gamgye Acoustic Music Festival banner.


tional cultural music event," commented lead ukulele player and singer Kui Lee.

The annual Gamgye Acoustic Music Festival is organized by professional musicians and educators Blues Lee and his wife Vivian Kim, who have performed at the Marianas

Ukulele Festival on Saipan on several occasions. "We are so happy to spend time with our good friends Larry and Kui, and are really grateful that they were able to perform at our Festival. We hope to return to Saipan again soon to continue our wonderful rela-

tionship with the people of the Marianas," remarked Blues.

Larry and his son Kui have been performing professionally on Saipan for over a decade and have been teaching ukulele in the CNMI since 2008. For more information, please email larrylee33@gmail.com. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-24-024

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-24-024, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations.**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 12, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 21, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal, in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN C. MAFNAS
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 123

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

D-Day, and pride in America as democracy's defender

A special poignancy surrounded the recent ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy on June 6, 1944, for the battle that foretold Nazi Germany's defeat.

It was likely the last such decennial celebration that the surviving heroes of Operation Overlord—indeed of any Allied campaign—would be able to attend.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that only 1,000 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II will still be alive for the next one in 2034. By then, all of them would be well over 100. One veteran died on his way to Normandy this month.

The Greatest Generation is almost gone. With living memory on the verge of extinction, there's reason to fear history's diminishing influence on the multitudes, especially in the U.S., who may become indifferent to the freedom that they owe to the many heroes of D-Day.

A wavering world

Is the free world wavering in its devotion to the principles of liberty and democracy that hung in the balance on D-Day? Might this be the last time anybody still cared?

The troops who parachuted from the sky and stormed beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Gold and Sword were understandably more concerned with surviving than with what history would say of them—and the battle that changed history.

On June 5, 1944, Hitler's regime ruled Europe with an iron fist. After June 6, German Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt bluntly advised the Nazi general staff: "Make peace, you fools."

The consequences of failure that day would have been unthinkable.

So are the consequences of failing to defend democracy and decency from the forces conspiring against them now.

A new evil empire

The United States that saved the free world in World War II is in danger of descending into despotism. Donald Trump intends to rule with his own iron fist if he returns to the office he disgraced when he whipped up a violent insurrection that he hoped would keep him there, despite losing an election.

Trump has already convinced a majority in his party that neither our free elections nor our courts are to be trusted. He cultivates contempt for democracy itself. It's how every dictator comes to power or clings to it.

To build himself up, Trump tears America down. He talks so furiously about seeking retribution on opponents that even some Republicans in Congress say they're worried. But they're not worried enough to call him out for the thug that he is and to renounce their allegiance to him.

He's the most openly racist politician to have led any Western government since World War II. He fawns over other right-wing authoritarians, especially Russia's Vladimir Putin and Hungary's Victor Orbán.

See D-DAY on Page 7



Ukraine's volunteer spirit buoys its fight against Russia

KYIV, Ukraine—As evening falls, the streets are mostly dark in Ukraine's capital. Russia has been systematically destroying the country's national power grid as Western allies have dawdled over providing promised air defense systems. The whir of generators has become the new night music for the restaurants, hotels, and homes that can afford to hold back the gloom.

The damage caused by the six-month congressional holdup of U.S. arms shipments to Ukraine is raised in every conversation I have had—the lives lost and morale lowered, all while allowing Russia to go on the offensive. In the wee hours of Wednesday, five air raid warnings for Kyiv lit up my cell phone on the country's Air Alert app. Dozens of alerts buzzed for other cities that have much less protection.

The good news: New Western supplies of missile interceptors have finally arrived. On Wednesday, they shot down the entire barrage of Russian missiles and killer drones over Kyiv, and nearly all of those unleashed on other parts of the country.

But what has cheered me up early in my trip—and bolstered my faith in Ukraine's future—is that the civilian volunteers who rose up after Russia invaded are still actively involved, helping other Ukrainians escape the fighting or getting them medical care after terrible wounds.

They are not waiting for U.S. government aid to act.

I have been covering world conflicts for decades, and I have never witnessed such strong civic activism in any other country besides the United States. These grassroots movements define the difference between democratic Ukraine and authoritarian, top-down, follow-orders-or-be-killed Russia. They will be critical to any future recovery if the West helps Ukraine drive the Russians out.

A typical example: In Odesa, I visited a small metal factory where the workers were actors and stage designers in the city's famous opera and theater house. Now, they are welding military vehicles and prototype drones.

Dimitro Bogachenko began the factory several years ago with a colleague to produce sets and metal stage curtains.

"I was an actor for 15 years in musical comedy, and then stage director at the opera," he told me. "Now I can't remember any of the sets I designed, only the specifications for the work that we do for the army."

During the first week of the war, he and his friends began producing flak jackets with metal plates with money they raised on the Telegram app. They then armored 40 trucks and gave them to Ukrainian forces.

Their work caught the eye of National Guard Lt. Col. Sergei Sudets, who commands mobile units that patrol 157 miles of southern coastline to protect against drones. He shaped the volunteers into an innovative unit that repairs and repurposes old equipment to meet new needs.

"The Russian drones are flying higher now," Sudets told me, referring to Shahed drones bought from Iran, as welders' sparks flew on the factory floor. They are taking old Soviet machine guns from 1943, mounting them on truck beds, and modernizing them so they can strike up to three miles high, Sudets said.

As we spoke, a tall former ballet dancer in a work-stained

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.



jumpsuit passed by.

These innovative artists have put together a new model of a flying attack drone, a weapon that has become crucial to compensating for Ukraine's lack of ammunition. "Hitting drones with a range of 40 kilometers would push [Russian] artillery out of range," said Bogachenko. "We have the people to produce them, but we lack the financing."

They have submitted their prototype to be considered for testing and government financing, but in the meantime, the workers are still pitching in their own money. Bogachenko said his wife would be horrified if she knew how much of his salary had gone into the projects.

There is still a desperate need in Ukraine's defense system for a more organized way to scale up and fund the promising drone prototypes designed by Ukrainian civilians — a critical need if Russia is to be pushed back.

The help volunteers provide army units by raising funds from their own salaries, on the Telegram app, or from family, friends, businesses, or foundations — to deliver everything from drones to used cars to night vision goggles — may not match the impact of missiles, but it is essential for morale and survival.

Equally impressive are volunteer organizations focused on aiding civilians, like Helping to Leave, a project launched by cognitive neuroscientist-turned-social worker Dina Urlich to help Ukrainians escape from occupied territory, which amounts to nearly 20% of the country.

"It breaks our hearts because these people have no basic rights and are treated like slaves," she said. The sole routes to escape require obtaining a Russian passport from Russian occupation officials, then traveling through Russia and surviving terrifying checkpoints. Many would-be escapees are too old or too frightened to try.

Urlich, a young woman who overcame personal health issues to take up this campaign, has to raise all the costs for extracting escapees and finding them shelter when they arrive in free Ukraine. She has 150 volunteers, often people who have been evacuated and want to give back.

"Of course, a lot of volunteers stop because they have to work, or they lose faith," she said. Indeed, I am hearing that many contributors to volunteer efforts feel tapped out after two years of donations. But most are in it for the long haul.

"This is a marathon, not a sprint," Urlich said. Ukrainians know they are involved in an existential struggle to retain their

See UKRAINE on Page 7

8 needed steps to save democracy and our future

Democracies in decline rarely come to an abrupt end. They usually unravel—slowly and subtly—over a period of time; the rot slowly reveals itself until the endgame becomes obvious.

Threats to democracy are now out in the open and very real, but there are some steps we can take to help preserve governance by informed people who are concerned about our children and the Earth we leave behind.

1. Reverse Citizens United and Noerr-Pennington. The Supreme Court’s erroneous 2010 decision in Citizens United has led to extreme campaign finance corruption through “dark money” financing of political campaigns. Collusive associations can form entities exempt from campaign contribution limitations and effective disclosure of financing sources. This holding fuses individual citizens and corporate entities into comparable status. Earth to court: Corporate officers have a fiduciary duty to protect the corporation’s capital and maximize its profit—an orientation radically disparate from the citizens of a democracy with concern for their children and the future.

Adding to this seminal corruption is the Noerr-Pennington decision that confers First Amendment privilege to combinations of corporations normally required not to collude for marketplace efficacy. But that collusion now results in trade associations for every imaginable profit interest — collusively lobbying and directing the Citizens United largesse into unprecedented election corruption. It has spawned a lobbying regime that effectively controls virtually every alleged regulatory agency, actually representing the takeover of government by organized and corruptive special interests.

2. Limit the Electoral College to assure presidential election by the majority of the nation. We have a Senate that already manifests the important role of state sovereignty. Further, the recent Supreme Court ruling that renders moot much of the nation’s Voting Rights Act violates basic judicial competency. Gerrymandering needs to be stopped, which could be somewhat accomplished by eliminating the Electoral College.

3. Tackle global warming. This is, as Al Gore presciently put

it, “an inconvenient truth.” The evidence is not in bona fide dispute. We are well into making our long-term future unviable. The dismissal of curative action is furthered by those who profit from the imposition of carbon and other imbalances—a source of influence much stimulated by the dark money corruption of our democracy noted above.

4. Reduce the federal deficit. Republicans have traditionally adhered to a sensible policy of carrying only a modest future deficit that will eventually be imposed on our grandchildren or theirs. This debt, now reaching a record \$34 trillion, is an extreme danger to the future of all of us. It represents an obligation to repay our creditors (led by Japan and China). But what four-year administration arranged the single highest increase in that debt? That of Donald Trump, a Republican—adding \$8.2 trillion mostly through tax cuts for the wealthy.

5. Preserve free speech. Communication is how we learn, but it is in jeopardy. The internet and artificial intelligence increasingly allow disinformation to dominate what is seen or heard. Free speech is a fundamental right, but those of us who hear or see a message also have essential rights. The audience should be able to choose who it reads or hears, and know something about the expertise and bias of the source. Requiring messengers to disclose their identities—no screening, no restrictions, no sanctions—will allow actual free speech to function. If we can persuade one platform to require this disclosure, others will follow suit from competitive pressure.

6. Say “no” to socialism. State ownership of the means of production and the absence of private gain and free markets is disastrous wherever it occurs. Capitalism needs some controls and fair competition assurance—without the abuses of monopoly, price fixing, product irreparable harm and other forms of corruption. But the basic structure of private accomplishment for the public good is simply necessary for effective market performance.

7. Address overpopulation. Our nation’s diversity and humanitarian traditions are based on the acceptance of refugees fleeing

By ROBERT C. FELLMETH
The Fulcrum

Robert Fellmeth is the Price Professor of Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego School of Law and the founder and executive director of the Children's Advocacy Institute.



other countries, but there are advantageous limits on that influx. We can allow 1.5 million new citizens from outside our county each year — that amounts to half of 1 percent. But there is an underlying issue of excessive world population. How ironic it is that “right to life” adherents would prohibit all abortions and view every fertilized egg as a child when we now have 8.1 billion humans alive in this world, more than triple since 1950.

What would be the result of a world where we had presumptive contraception, and egg fertilization did not happen without prior intent by two adults who take a basic course in parenting, and perhaps post a bond for education expenses? Why don’t we think about options other than the misapplication of religious dogma presaging the end of humankind?

8. Avoid “packism,” the most pernicious human flaw. Our greatest debilitation by far, is our formation into groupings—by religion, sexual preference, race or ethnicity, political leanings, tribal or nation/state affiliations. Then, we use these affiliations to inflict suffering or death upon “the other.” Whether it’s Vladimir Putin’s Russia invading Ukraine, Hamas attacking Israelis, Israel blasting Palestinians, or the Chinese genocide against Turkic Muslim communities, it is the single most evil feature of human beings, historically and presently.

These eight areas of needed reform will determine the fate of those who follow us.

I’ve learned that it may be best to email like a cat

By PETER H. SCHWARTZ
Chicago Tribune

I’ve discovered that cats, extrusions of our human souls, have much to teach us about how to use email to our advantage.

I send lots of emails. Too many emails. I also respond instantly when other people send an email to me. And truth be told, I go on and on, interminably, in my emails.

While you might assume this superior level of responsiveness is a good thing—as it implies a loyalty to friends and family and a professional business attitude—in reality, the impact of being a responsive fool turns out to be perversely negative. In personal and work settings, an overly friendly and chatty email personality can produce the opposite of the intended effect.

Like it or not, relationships are about power, leverage and advantage. In face-to-face conversations, verbal and nonverbal communication is often about positioning yourself in relation to others so that you can achieve your goals and reinforce your sense of self. That doesn’t mean we have to be jerks. But confidence surely matters in our presentation of ourselves.

Oddly, power dynamics play out differently in email. Because there is no physical presence and no spoken words, power presents itself by holding back.

In reviewing email relationship dynamics, you may have noticed that the advantage often seems to accrue to the person who is most aloof. Who responds rather than initiates. Who responds slowly rather than quickly. Who uses fewer words rather than more words.

The effect is to communicate relative indifference. People who initiate email conversations may respond instantly and be overly verbose in their email threads, communicating a perhaps too-eager desire to please.

To use email to your advantage, you need to recognize that it is not just a means of communication. It is a tactic and part of a larger presentation strategy.

I’m not suggesting you should never initiate conversations with other people. I’m also not suggesting you not respond with reasonable dispatch or be so clipped in your replies that you sound brusque or unfriendly. Clearly, all relationships are ultimately about giving, as well as taking. You cannot meet the needs of others without a caring, solicitous persona.

But particularly with email, the flip side holds true, as well. In the absence of nonverbal cues and tonal signaling, it becomes even more important in email relationships to communicate confidence and a professionally styled regal dignity. There is simply too much opportunity for people to misread your intentions and

your state of mind. So you need continually to balance those two goals—being caring and solicitous, while also projecting confidence and dignity—in your email outreach.

Try this exercise. Think about people who email the way dogs or cats respond to their owners. Dogs bound up to their owners, love attention, wag their tails, jump around, bark happily, follow their owners about the house, lick their owners and generally make it clear 24/7 how much they love and need their owners.

Cats could generally give a damn about their owners. They want their owners to feed them, empty their litter boxes, open the door for them and otherwise stay the hell out of their way. They are not rude. But their relationship with their owners is a practical relationship. Let’s call it a “professional” relationship. That’s why dogs drool and cats rule.

Consider whether, in your email conversations, you are a dog or a cat. I am a dog trying to become a cat. If you think you are a cat, no worries. But if you recognize doglike qualities in your communication style, think about ways you can assume more of a “cat” persona.

Peter H. Schwartz writes at the broad intersection of philosophy, politics, history and religion. He publishes the Wikidworld newsletter on Substack.

D-DAY

From page 6

Threats against NATO

Nothing would disparage the future of democracy worldwide more than for us to elect a president who threatens to destroy NATO, the great international system we and our allies built to defend democracy and to avert World War III.

The D-Day ceremonies had hardly ended when European voters gave an enormous boost to far-right political parties. The chilling message from those returns was enough to upset the domestic politics of France and Germany, the two pillars

of the European Union.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron was shocked into dissolving his parliament and calling a snap election. Whatever the outcome, he has two years in his term. But a clear victory for the far-right National Rally could cripple Macron and embolden neo-fascism not only in Europe, but in the U.S.

In 1838, a young prairie politician named Abraham Lincoln told an audience that America, insulated by two great oceans, had nothing to fear from foreign enemies and was in danger only from itself.

The defense is simple, he said: “Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well-wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution, never to violate in the least

particular, the laws of the country; and never to tolerate their violation by others.”

Even then, political passions were tearing America apart. It led to a great Civil War and to the decisive battle at Gettysburg, where Lincoln declared that the living would best honor the dead by ensuring that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Democracies are fragile. They can be destroyed by ballots as well as by bullets.

Gettysburg and Operation Overlord repelled the bullets. The ballots are up to us.

©2024 South Florida Sun Sentinel.

UKRAINE

From page 6

independence and freedom.

They are people like the volunteers I’ve met with Ukraine

TrustChain, who are rebuilding roofs of Russian-destroyed village homes, and risking their lives to rescue villagers displaced by Russia’s recent rampage through villages near Kharkiv. And so many other people spend every spare moment raising funds to help war amputees or feed families displaced by fighting.

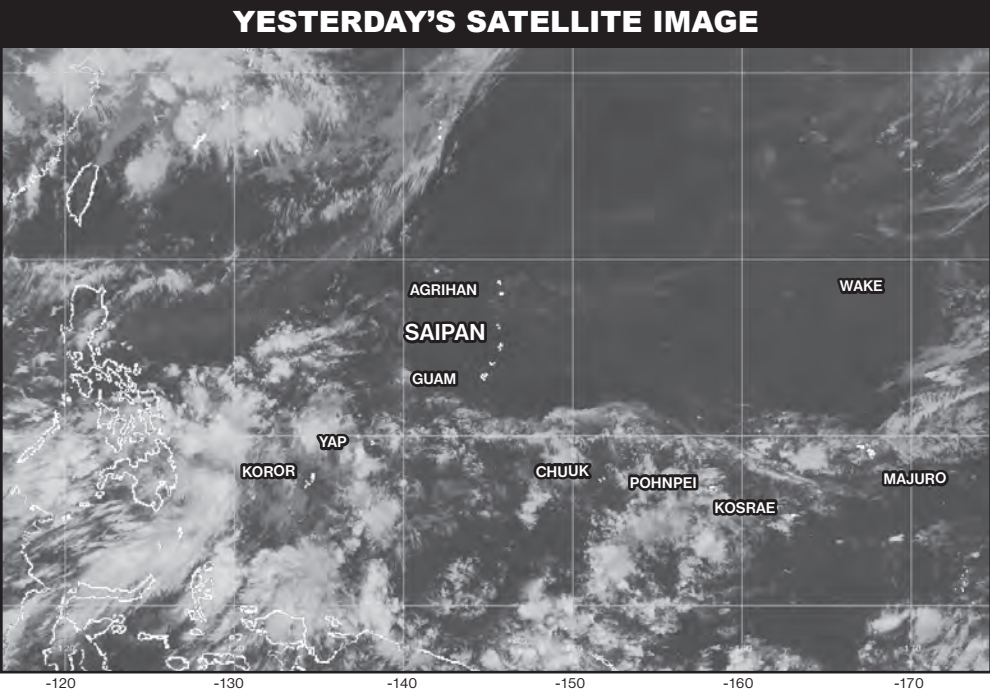
They give the lie to Russian propaganda—too often echoed

by know-nothing MAGA media in the U.S.—that Ukraine is an authoritarian, or, absurdly, a Nazi, state.

These volunteers illustrate what kind of European democracy Ukraine could be if the United States and its allies finally decided to give Kyiv the weapons it needs now—to push Russia back before it’s too late.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:18 AM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. There are slightly enhanced clouds and showers passing through Tinian and Saipan Waters at this time. The Ritidian buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind waves and a moderate east swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	87° / 76°	
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:45 AM	5:13 PM
Friday	-	4:35 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	-	5:31 AM	7:12 PM
Sunday	-	6:32 AM	8:11 PM
Monday	-	7:35 AM	9:05 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Fair	100° / 76°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Windy	85° / 74°	
London	Showers	64° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 63°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	92° / 80°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
New York	Clear	85° / 71°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 66°	
Paris	Showers	72° / 59°	
Busan	Showers	77° / 70°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	72° / 57°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 64°	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 53°	
Seoul	Sunny	94° / 66°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	85° / 64°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:03 AM	Low Tide	1.46	
05:05 AM	High Tide	1.96	
12:38 PM	Low Tide	-0.05	
8:05 PM	High Tide	1.94	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Financial aid options, admissions process at NMC's free info session today

Northern Marianas College is reminding all members of the community who are interested in learning about the admissions process and the college's available financial aid options for the upcoming Fall 2024 semester that there will be an info session on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at the Sunflower Room of Saipan World Resort.

The info session is free, and doors will open at 5:30pm. Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming Fall 2024 semester, a savings of about \$75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the Fall 2024 semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's Fall 2024 semester will begin on Aug. 19, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. (PR)

MVA general membership meeting today

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its biannual general membership meeting today, June 20, at Saipan World Resort in Susupe, Saipan at 10am. Registration will open at 9:30am.

Guest speakers will be from the MVA's off-shore offices: MVA Korea in-country manager Sejin Kim and representatives from MVA's creative ad agency for Japan, Kelly Nguyen and Asumi Yamayoshi, who will introduce the MVA's new marketing campaign "Between You and I." A brief update on other MVA programs will also be given.

Elections will also be held for four positions on the MVA board of directors that are elected by MVA members. Nominees are:

■ Gloria Cavanagh, vice president, Marianas Eland Group of Companies

■ Christopher Nelson, president, Flame Tree TV, Marianas Trekking

■ Masaru Sunaga, general manager, Tasi Tours Transportation

■ Ivan Quichocho, general manager, Century Hotel/Century Tours/SeaTouch

■ Doyi Kim, vice president, P&A Corp.

■ Bochyul "James" Kim, president, Monster Pizza Pub, Sasamo Tour

■ Perry Inos, partner and managing director, Tapped Out/AP Group

■ Vicky Benavente, vice president, Benavente and Associates

MVA members listed as the point of contact that wish to cast their votes for incoming board members must be present to vote. Proxy votes may be accepted provided a voting proxy form is completed and submitted prior to the meeting.

"We encourage our members and all interested members of the public to attend our general membership meeting on June 20 for detailed information on market intelligence and the MVA's work in Korea and Japan," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The importance of our tourism economy is at the forefront of all our minds, so we invite everyone to join us for this important meeting."

The meeting cost is \$35/

person for MVA members and \$40/person for non-members and includes morning refreshments. Payments may be made at the door via cash, credit card, or debit card. Seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The MVA welcomes businesses, organizations, and individuals to its membership. Membership is \$100/year, and accounts can be registered and paid on MVA's English website at www.mymarianas.com or at the MVA office. Benefits of membership include: business listing on the MVA's language-specific websites in Korean, Japanese, and English; opportunities to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and FAM

tours; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices in the Marianas and internationally; detailed visitor data through monthly statistics reports; nomination and voting rights for the MVA Board of Directors; the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA; and the opportunity to serve on ad hoc committees.

To RSVP for the general membership meeting, request a proxy form for MVA members to vote in the board election, request a membership application, or for more information, contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Ed Diaz or Jack Aranda at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200. (PR)



UOG PRESIDENT MEETS WITH TRITONS FROM DC, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA

University of Guam president Anita Borja Enriquez and Triton Alumni from the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia areas gathered at the Carlyle in Arlington, Virginia, on June 11, 2024, to share stories, celebrate successes, and strengthen connections among alumni and members of the Guam diaspora. Enriquez also provided updates on the university's Tulos Mo'na strategic plan. From left, Robert Phoenix Reyes '05, Frankie Cruz '97, Anthony Cruz '84, Scott White MBA '96, Nancy White '94 Katherine Toth, Co-Chair of Federal Asian Pacific American Council Community Outreach, Florante Manaloto '03, Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG President, Roger Gulac '94, Mike Blas '89, Florie Mendiola '03, Dr. Julie Concepcion Cruz '97 MBA '99, Maria DeGuzman Pangelinan '86, Col. Gina San Nicolas '00, Col. Joseph Geary, Mary Kate Soliva, '12 MPA '13, Nelson Soliva '13, Karin Alba Watson '98, and David Santos, Jr. '00.

S.A.M.E Guam Post announces registration, sponsorship opportunities for Guam Industry Forum 2024

GUAM—The Guam Post of the Society of American Engineers announced the opening of registration and sponsorship opportunities for the Guam Industry Forum 2024 scheduled for Nov. 14-16, 2024, at the Dusit Thani Guam Resort.

The 2024 event features three days of engaging activities: a two-day Guam Industry Forum 2024, an island facilities window tour, and the annual Charlie Corn Scholarship Golf Tournament on Nov. 16. Interested attendees can now register for the 2024 S.A.M.E. Guam Industry Forum at guamindustryforum.com and take advantage of early bird fees until Sept. 1. Returning and potential sponsors can download the sponsorship packet from the event's website or reach out via email to guamindustryforum@gmail.com.

Jenny Bowers, president-elect of S.A.M.E. Guam Post, announced that registration is opening soon for our third Guam Industry Forum. Over the past few years, we've witnessed significant growth in U.S. military projects on the island. The 2024 event will feature subject matter experts from the Department of Defense, the Government of Guam, and the private sector, offering valuable insights for local and international companies, contractors, suppliers, and service providers seeking regional opportunities.

The two-day Guam Industry Forum 2024 will bring together speakers and attendees from around the world. Participants will have the opportunity to network and engage with decision-makers involved in military expansion

projects in Guam and the West Pacific. Organized by S.A.M.E. Guam Post, with support from the Guam Chamber of Commerce and

» Attendees can take advantage of early bird fees until Sept. 1 and secure sponsorship levels now

Guam Contractors Association, the forum's theme is "Building Security, Deterrence, and Resiliency in the Western Pacific." Attendees will gain insights on effective contract competition and potential partnerships, as they prepare to bid on over \$11 billion worth of anticipated military expansion

projects planned for the next five to ten years.

The S.A.M.E. Guam Post Annual Charlie Corn Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held at Finest Guam Golf & Resort (former Starts Guam Golf Resort). This event, which has been running since 1978, remains the longest-standing annual charity benefit on Guam. Over the past 14 years, it has awarded 120 scholarships, totaling an impressive \$341,000. Stay tuned for registration details, which will be announced at a later date.

S.A.M.E. Guam Post is presenting tiered sponsorship opportunities to engage audiences from the construction industry, the U.S. Military, service providers, and local government. Guam Industry Forum 2024 sponsors gain exceptional value and expo-

sure while contributing to the organization's mission of providing scholarships to students in Guam pursuing architecture and engineering. Act quickly—sponsorship opportunities expire on Oct. 15.

Bowers added, "Companies are encouraged to contact us for further information or to access our sponsorship packet on our website. Past sponsors have already expressed interest in establishing a presence at the 2024 Guam Industry Forum. As in previous events, we are confident that participating companies will derive significant value from their involvement."

You can find detailed information about the Guam Industry Forum 2024, including registration and event sponsorship opportunities, on the official website at www.guamindustryforum.com. (PR)

Business

Save the dates for Christmas in July: A tri-island celebration

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is thrilled to announce “Christmas in July”—a unique mid-summer campaign designed to encourage shoppers to support local businesses year-round, not just during the holiday season.

This campaign kicks off on the island of Tinian, followed by the island of Rota, and will conclude on the island of Saipan. Travel through the islands for three spectacular events aimed to spread the warmth of the holiday season and for our communities to remember to shop small and support local businesses. Patrons will explore the diverse and unique products crafted by our talented local community. Whether you’re looking for handmade gifts, delicious treats, or one-of-a-kind items,

“Christmas in July” is the perfect opportunity to discover and support local artisans and small businesses in the CNMI.

Event dates and locations:

1. Tinian SBDC: July 12, 2024, at the NMC Tinian

Campus

2. Rota SBDC: July 19, 2024, at the Rota Roundhouse

3. Saipan lead network site: July 25, 2024, at the NMC As Terlaje Campus V.S. Sablan Vocational Training Center Parking Lot (V-Bldg).

All events will be held from 5pm to 8pm. The public is invited to join us at no-cost.

What to expect:

1. Holiday decorations: Each location will be transformed with festive decorations to capture the holiday spirit in the middle of summer.

2. SBDC client-vendors galore: Attendees can explore a variety of novelty, food, and drink vendors offering unique products and delicious treats. This is a fantastic opportunity for local small businesses to showcase their offerings and connect with potential customers.

3. Holiday-themed performances: Enjoy live performances that will bring the magic of the holidays to life. From carolers to dance groups, the entertainment will be sure to delight audiences of all ages.



4. Raffle prizes: Don’t miss your chance to win exciting raffle prizes! Each event will feature raffles with prizes donated by local businesses, adding an extra layer of excitement to the festivities.

Benefits for small businesses:

1. Early market insights: Small businesses can use this opportunity to gauge customer

interest in their holiday products and services, allowing for better planning and inventory management.

2. Community engagement: This event provides a platform for businesses to engage with the community, build relationships, and increase their visibility.

3. Sales boost: With the holiday spirit in full swing, businesses can boost their

midsummer sales and attract new customers.

“We’re thrilled to bring the magic of the holidays to the summer months and provide an opportunity for our small businesses to thrive,” said Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, CNMI SBDC Network director. “Christmas in July is not just about early holiday shopping; it’s about fostering a sense of community and supporting our local entrepreneurs.”

Mark your calendars and join us for an unforgettable celebration of community, commerce, and holiday cheer! For more information, please visit their website at www.cnmisbdcn.org or contact us at 670-237-6888 or via email at cnmisbdc@marianas.edu.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact your local SBDC at P. O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 237-6888, or email SBDC Administrative Office manager Adelpha Magofna at adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu. Services are extended to the public on a non-disciplinary basis. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China, Malaysia due to ink economic pacts as visiting Premier Li meets with Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Chinese Premier Li Qiang is set to talk Wednesday with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, with their countries due to ink cooperation pacts on digital economy and green development as they celebrate a half-century of diplomatic relations. Li, the first Chinese premier to visit Malaysia since 2015, flew in late Tuesday from Australia to a red carpet welcome. Upon his arrival, Li said the two nations’ 50-year anniversary was a new starting point to deepen links and increase exchanges. “China is advancing Chinese modernization on all fronts through high-quality development. Malaysia, on its part, is promoting national development under the vision of Malaysia MADANI. China is ready to work with Malaysia,” Li said in a statement published by the national Bernama news agency. Li, China’s No. 2 leader after President Xi Jinping, last week also became the first Chinese premier to visit New Zealand and then Australia in seven years. Li was given an official welcoming ceremony

at Malaysia’s government capital of Putrajaya before private talks with Anwar.

Japan’s exports surge 13.5% in May, helped by cheap yen and strong demand in US, Asian markets

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s exports surged 13.5% in May, faster than expected growth helped by a weak yen and strong demand in the U.S. and Asia. Finance Ministry data reported Wednesday showed that the trade deficit totaled 1.22 trillion yen (\$7.7 billion), down nearly 12% from 1.38 trillion yen a year earlier. Imports grew 9.5%, year-on-year, to nearly 9.5 trillion yen (\$60 billion). Exports totaled 8.3 trillion yen (\$53 billion) and grew at the fastest since November 2022. Shipments to the United States were up nearly 24% and those to the rest of Asia rose more than 13%, led by double-digit growth in shipments of vehicles, electronics and machinery. Trade with Europe mostly fell. The value of Japan’s imports tends to grow when the Japanese yen loses value against the U.S. dollar and other major currencies. The dollar is trading at nearly 158 yen, up from 140-yen levels a year ago.

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Life & Style

Timberlake charged with driving while intoxicated in the Hamptons

SAG HARBOR, N.Y. (AP)—Pop star Justin Timberlake was charged early Tuesday with drunken driving in a village in New York’s Hamptons, after police said he ran a stop sign and veered out of his lane in the posh seaside summer retreat.

The boy band singer-turned-solo star and actor was driving a 2025 BMW in Sag Harbor around 12:30 a.m. when an officer stopped him and determined he was intoxicated, according to a court document.

“His eyes were bloodshot and glassy, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was emanating from his breath, he was unable to divide attention, he had slowed speech, he was unsteady afoot and he performed poorly on all standardized field sobriety tests,” the court papers said.

Timberlake, 43, told the officer he had one martini and was following some friends home, according to the documents. After being arrested and taken to a police station in nearby East Hampton, he refused a breath test, said the court papers, which listed his occupation as “professional” and said he’s “self-employed.”

The 10-time Grammy winner was released without bond later Tuesday morning after being arraigned in Sag Harbor. He was charged with a driving-while-intoxicated misdemeanor, and his next court date was scheduled for July 26, the Suffolk County district attorney’s office said.

Edward Burke Jr., a local lawyer representing Timberlake, declined to comment Tuesday other than to confirm the star doesn’t need to appear

in person for his next court date. Timberlake’s California-based representatives didn’t return multiple requests for comment Tuesday.

The arrest brought a steady stream of curiosity seekers to the village’s quaint Main Street, with many taking photos in front of the brick municipal building throughout the day.

Even music legend Billy Joel, who owns a home in Sag Harbor, took in the scene outside the American Hotel, a popular hotel and restaurant located next to the courthouse where Timberlake had been spotted before his arrest.

“Judge not lest ye be judged,” the “Piano Man” singer told WPIX, declining to comment on Timberlake or his arrest.

A young Timberlake began performing as a Disney Mouseketeer, where his castmates included future girlfriend Britney Spears (he’s now married to actress Jessica Biel). He rose to fame in the behemoth boy band NSYNC, embarked on a solo recording career in 2002 and was one of pop’s most influential figures in the early 2000s.

Fluent in the inflections of pop and R&B, he’s known for such Grammy-winning hits as “Cry Me A River,” “SexyBack,” “What Goes Around... Comes Around” and “Can’t Stop The Feeling!” He has performed at Super Bowl halftime shows multiple times, including the infamous 2004 “wardrobe malfunction” moment when he ripped off a piece of Janet Jackson’s clothing and revealed her bare nipple.

The episode led to Jackson’s exclusion from the Grammy



Justin Timberlake arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of “Candy,” Monday, May 9, 2022, at El Capitan Theatre.

telecast a week later. She said in a 2022 documentary that what happened was an accident and that she and Timberlake remained good friends.

Timberlake also built an acting career, garnering acclaim in movies including “The Social Network” and “Friends With Benefits”

and winning four Primetime Emmy Awards.

Last year, Timberlake was in the headlines when Spears released her memoir, “The Woman in Me.” Several chapters were devoted to their relationship, including deeply personal details about a pregnancy, abortion and painful breakup. In March, he released his first new album in six years, the nostalgic “Everything I Thought It Was,” a return to his familiar future funk sound.

Timberlake has two upcoming shows in Chicago on Friday and Saturday, then is scheduled for New York’s Madison Square Garden on June 25 and 26.

Sag Harbor, a onetime whal-

ing village mentioned in Herman Melville’s classic novel “Moby-Dick,” is nestled amid the Hamptons, around 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of New York City. The Hamptons have long been a hot spot for the rich and famous, and various stars and otherwise prominent people have had brushes with the law there.

Located on a bay, Sag Harbor for years cultivated a more down-to-earth, “un-Hampton” reputation than its oceanfront neighbors — a place where people gathered not at a country club but at a corner bar called the Corner Bar. There is still a five-and-dime store, and a mainstay of the social scene is the quaint, cozy mid-19th-century American Hotel.

Cruise ship with Broadway stars to steam off to Mexico in spring 2025

NEW YORK (AP)—A cruise ship with some of Broadway’s biggest names—including Tony Award-winner Laura Benanti and Emmy-winner Wayne Brady—will sail from Florida to Mexico next spring.

The Broadway Cruise—heading roundtrip from Miami to Cozumel, from March 31-April 4, 2025—will also feature Tony nominees Shoshana Bean, Eva Noblezada and Alex Brightman, as well as Broadway favorites Corey Cott, Caissie Levy and Solea Pfeiffer.

Tony-winning director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell, behind such shows as “Kinky Boots” and “La Cage au Folles,” will discuss creating a show and teach dance classes, while Tony-winning producer Jeffrey Seller—be-

hind such hits as “Hamilton,” “Rent” and “Avenue Q”—will discuss producing hits on Broadway. Will Van Dyke will be the musical director for the cruise.

Producers promise “intimate and grand scale shows and cabarets from Broadway’s coolest talent. You will gain tips and techniques from some of the best and brightest creative talent working today.” There will also be celebrity meet-and-greets and Broadway karaoke.

This will be the third Broadway Cruise, which borrows the Norwegian Gem for its themed trips. Patrons can see performances at everything from the 850-seat Stardust Theater to the Pool Deck Stage, which fits 2,000 or the Atrium Stage, which fits 300.



Laura Benanti appears at the premiere for “No Hard Feelings” in New York on June 20, 2023, left, and Wayne Brady appears at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Nov. 20, 2022.

“With two incredibly successful trips under our belt, The Broadway Cruise is now an annual tradition,” Scott Zeiger, executive producer for EBG Solutions,

said in a statement. “If you love Broadway, there is no vacation more fulfilling and exciting than being on our complete ship takeover with today’s biggest talent.”

Cruel words add pain to loss of companion

DEAR ABBY: My cat recently passed away, and it has devastated me. He was my emotional support during some of the hardest times of my life — relationships ending, moving to different states, deaths in my family, lonely nights battling depression. My cat was my one constant source of peace and companionship. I miss him dearly.

When I mentioned to some friends that I’m looking forward to reuniting with him one day in the “hereafter,” a religious friend scoffed and laughed. She then proceeded to tell me cats do not have souls and I shouldn’t get my hopes up of ever seeing him again. I managed a small shrug and changed the subject, but on the drive home I was depressed, thinking about what she’d said.

Upon further research, I found that, according to Catholicism, she was correct, and animals do not have souls, which has made me heartbroken all over again. Should I consult a religious adviser or continue believing I’ll see my cat again?

I have to think that people who have no friends or family but do have beloved pets will be reunited with them. Lots of times, our pets are the only family we have.

MISSING MY CAT IN GEORGIA

DEAR MISSING: Your friend was insensitive to deny

you the comfort of believing your soul would be reunited with that of your beloved kitty. There are many religions, and not all of them subscribe to the same philosophies. If you need reassurance, discuss this with your own religious adviser who, I am sure, has had a similar conversation with many members of his flock.

P.S. My personal philosophy is that my soul will be reunited with any soul I wish once I have shed this earthly shell.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was asked to be the maid of honor in a friend’s wedding. I did not consider us to be close friends, but she has no sisters and few girlfriends. She seemed desperate and told me I was the only one who could fit this role, so I obliged.

Now it’s my turn to be the bride. I have other girlfriends I am closer to that I would like to ask to be my bridesmaids. I feel guilty for not returning the favor. She’s invited to the wedding, but I don’t want her to be in my wedding party. I also feel awkward having to tell her she isn’t as close to me as the other girlfriends I want. How do I let her down gently without hurting her feelings?

NOT CLOSE IN THE WEST

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR NOT CLOSE: Why are you feeling guilty? Having served as this woman’s maid of honor does not obligate you to have her be part of your own wedding. A way to “let her down gently” would be not to mention the subject at all. If she brings it up, explain that you invited her because you want her there to share in your happiness. Period.

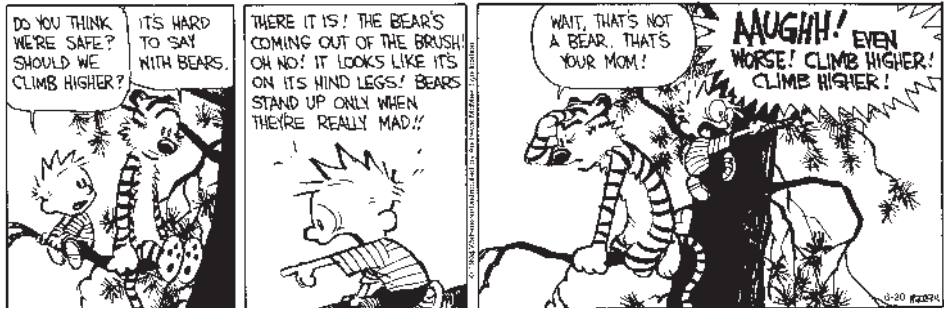
■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



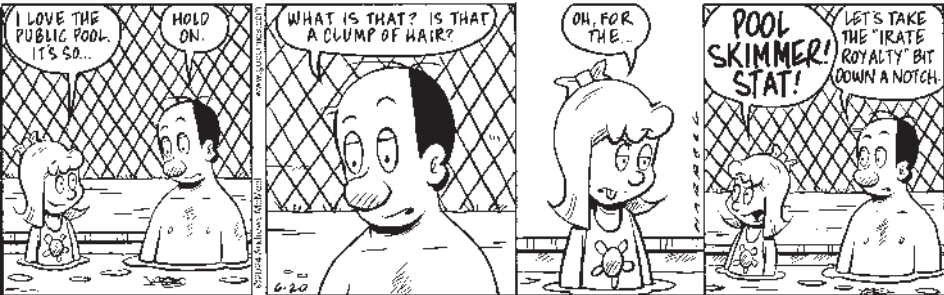
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



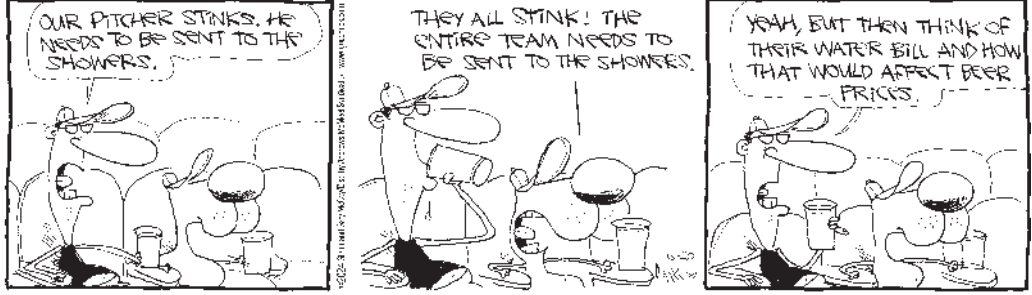
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

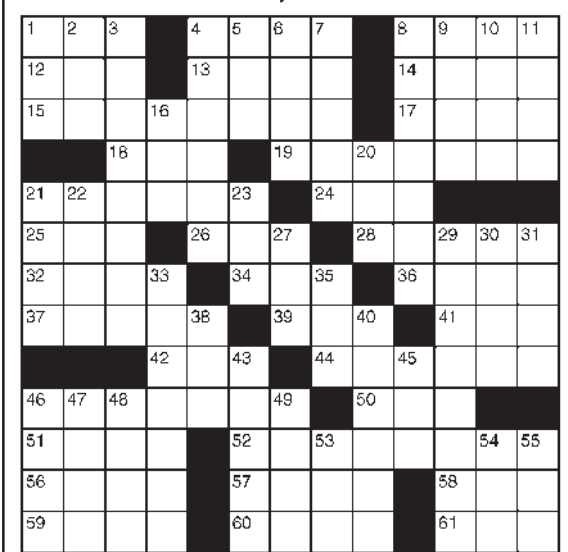
ACROSS 1 Poke 4 Seize 8 Not many 12 Yoko from Tokyo 13 Dalai — 14 Paper towel brand 15 Library user 17 Done with 18 Fix a sound-track 19 Wizard's study 21 Tarzan type 24 PBS funder 25 Actress Farrow 26 Cover 28 Maxim 32 Grad 34 Highland hat 36 Scott Turow book 37 El Paso native 39 Cranberry territory

DOWN 41 Refusals 42 URL ending 44 "— Bovary" 46 Uninvited guest 50 Fish-fowl insert 51 Gaming tyro 52 Rhoda, to Mary 56 Thunder god 57 Grown-up nits 58 Wise bird 59 Capital of Togo 60 Poetic tributes 61 ICU workers

22 Heap 23 Quibble 27 Wee dollop 29 Michigan city 30 Euclidean subj. 31 Other-wise 33 Ghoulish 35 Soccer — 38 Silent assent 40 Sacred river 43 Edison's — Park 45 "What was I thinking?" 46 World-wide (Abbr.) 47 Big Apple neighborhood 48 "Va-va—!" 49 Tara of "Shark-nado" 53 "Rocks" 54 Have 55 "Kid-napped" monogram

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alisan Porter, 43; Nicole Kidman, 57; John Goodman, 72; Lionel Richie, 75.

Happy Birthday: Relax. Take time to think, rejuvenate and put a plan in place. Refuse to let your emotions spin out of control. Put your energy into learning and fulfilling your dreams. Stop making excuses and start planning your next move. Be honest and set a budget that offers opportunities to do things your way. Say no to temptation and yes to a healthy lifestyle. Your numbers are 3, 12, 21, 26, 35, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen, but don't trust or believe everything you hear. Abundance comes from intelligent investing and spending only on necessities. Saving will lead to peace of mind and the freedom to enjoy lifestyle options that add to your comfort and joy. Protect against insult or injury. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look at the big picture. Don't let anger set in when a positive attitude will help you get your way. What you put out, you will get back. Play to win, and act out of compassion and understanding. Compromise will lead to optimum results. Romance is favored. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look at every angle before moving. Learn from experience and trust only reliable people and sources. Invest more time in getting the facts, restoring rather than replacing and delegating your time to what matters most. Take advantage of offers from institutions. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Participate, get moving, highlight health and tighten up your routine to capture what keeps you in shape and looking and feeling your best. Join groups that encourage you to set an excellent example for loved ones while expanding

your friendships, and you'll receive compliments for your contributions. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy activities and events that excite you, and you will meet people who can make a difference in your life. Challenge yourself to end situations that cost you emotionally or financially, and redirect your money and energy into something beneficial. Opportunities will unfold. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get a second opinion regarding purchases, contracts or medical issues. Discipline will be required when dealing with emotional problems or anyone giving you a hard time at work or home. Concentrate on taking care of your needs and personal growth. Think before you act. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An opportunity to travel, learn or change course is apparent along with misinformation. Refrain from making a snap decision, or you may hit a dead end. Do your due diligence before you cut ties or commit. Don't feel pressured or overreact to situations. Bide your time. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pour your heart and soul into something creative that satisfies you. Your energy and a spirited attitude will turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime. Don't allow anyone to stifle your plans. Follow through, and a positive change will transpire. Romance is favored. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your thoughts to yourself and be observant. You'll have to be smart with your money and commitments. Joint ventures or shared expenses will be difficult to deal with due to overreacting or emotional interference regarding taking the necessary protocol. Patience will help stifle drama. *****

EUGENIA LAST



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Collect your thoughts and prepare to change your routine or whatever stands between you and what you want. Don't miss out on an opportunity because you are reluctant to take a chance or address your fear or issue with someone or something. Make your move. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider what's important to you, and participate in events and activities you feel passionate about. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into changes that aren't beneficial. It's up to you to choose the opportunities that suit your needs. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Control your emotions when dealing with work-related matters or matters that can influence your reputation. Focus more on personal and home improvements that will enhance your life and encourage you to pay more attention to your physical and financial well-being. Romance is in the stars. **

Birthday Baby: You are caring, outgoing and sensitive. You are generous and impulsive.

G: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **GG:** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **GGG:** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **GGGG:** Aim high; start new projects. **GGGGG:** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

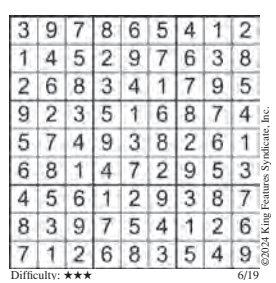
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★★★ 6/20 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 6/19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JIM CAVIEZEL Solution: 9 letters

ODIGGSTOWNALPLJU
TENAJIGKCI RTAPJ
LJFFFREDNOWMSET
IAIXRAEMAGEESST
AVDYEECTLSIUICS
RUENENQEARSROUE
GMLODILUAWHANTR
NEIROLATECTEITE
ILROMDNJENAEATY
NGRINEIOLRCTEYN
NIENMRFHPLYCWI
UBKUUNKNOWNGDHS
RSCJDIVADECARGE
COUNTHANNAVASAR
DNMONTECRIST © (B) M

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Bo, Catch, Christ, Count, Cut, David, Déjà Vu, Diggstown, Documentaries, Earp, Erin, Face, Final, Freedom, Frequency, Game, G.I. Jane, Grace, Grail, Infidel, Interest, James, Jesus, John, Junior, Kerri, Lyn, Margaret, Mel Gibson, Monte Cristo, Onyx, Passion, Patrick, Plan, Running, Savannah, Sweetwater, Thin Red Line, Unknown, Wonder, Wyatt
Yesterday's Answer: Soft Serve
The NEW Treasury 56 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Lodolo cruises thru 7 innings for 5th straight win for Reds



PITTSBURGH (AP)—Nick Lodolo allowed one run in seven

innings to win a fifth straight start, Santiago Espinal hit a two-run homer and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-1 on Tuesday night.

Lodolo (8-2) struck out eight without issuing a walk and gave up four hits. The left-hander has been tagged for seven runs in 30 1/3 innings in five starts since May 27.

Espinal put the Reds ahead in the fifth inning, driving a fastball from Bailey Falter just over a leaping Bryan Reynolds at the wall and 376 feet into the left field bleachers.

Alexis Díaz struck out one in a perfect ninth inning for his 16th save.

Falter (3-5) surrendered two runs on seven hits, going seven innings with three strikeouts and two walks.

MARLINS 9, CARDINALS 8, 10 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP)—Vidal Bruján hit a winning RBI single in the bottom of the 10th inning and Miami beat St. Louis to snap a six-game skid.

Nick Gordon reached on a one-out infield single against Chris Roycroft (1-1) that advanced automatic runner Jesús Sánchez to third. Tim Anderson followed with an RBI infield single, tying it at 8-all. Otto Lopez's groundout advanced Gordon and Anderson before Bruján soft liner to center field gave Miami its sixth walk-off win of the season.

Dylan Carlson's sacrifice fly against reliever Calvin Faucher (2-1) in the top of the 10th put St. Louis ahead.

Sánchez homered, doubled and singled, while Christian Bethancourt also went deep for the Marlins.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ketel Marte homered, Slade Cecconi pitched six sharp innings and Arizona defeated Washington in the opener of a three-game series.

Corbin Carroll reached base four times and scored twice for Arizona, which has won six of eight to improve to 36-37. The defending NL champion Diamondbacks have not been this close to .500 since they were 12-13 on April 23.

PHILLIES 4, PADRES 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos hit a bloop ground-rule double down the right field line to cap four consecutive ninth-inning hits and Philadelphia rallied from a two-run deficit for a win over San Diego.

Kyle Schwarber hit an eighth inning solo home run for the Phillies, who can finish off a season series sweep over San Diego on Wednesday. The Padres have now lost five in a row.

BRAVES 2, TIGERS 1

ATLANTA (AP)—Braves rookie Spencer Schwellenbach had his best start and Ozzie Albies delivered a key hit for the second straight game



Cincinnati Reds' Santiago Espinal, right, celebrates with Luke Maile (22) as he returns to the dugout after hitting a two-run home run off Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Bailey Falter during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

as Atlanta downed Detroit.

Schwellenbach (1-2) had his best outing since being called up on May 29, allowing just one run and three hits over six innings. He struck out seven, walked two and hit two batters with pitches in his fourth career start.

Atlanta closer Raisel Iglesias earned his 18th save in 20 chances after scoreless setup innings by Pierce Johnson and Joe Jiménez.

Albies, who hit a tiebreaking homer Monday, was 1 for 4 with an RBI triple and a run scored as the Braves won for the fifth time in six games. Marcell Ozuna also went 1 for 4 with an RBI.

MARINERS 8, GUARDIANS 5

CLEVELAND (AP)—J.P. Crawford hit a two-run homer, Luke Raley and Dylan Moore added solo shots and Seattle stayed baseball's hottest team with a win over AL Central-leading Cleveland.

With their fourth straight win and eighth in nine games, the Mariners improved to an MLB-best 17-5 since May 26.

Crawford homered in the third inning off Triston McKenzie (3-4) and added an RBI double in the fourth.

Raley, who grew up in nearby Medina, Ohio, connected in the fifth to put the Mariners ahead 6-1. The homer came only minutes after Raley made a diving catch on the track down the left-field line. He was ejected after striking out in the ninth.

Bryce Miller (6-5) held the Guardians to three runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings. It was the second straight solid outing for the right-hander, who pitched seven scoreless innings last week in a no-decision against the White Sox.

YANKEES 4, ORIOLES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge was hit on the left hand by a pitch in the Yankees' 4-2 win over the Baltimore in a series opener between the American League's winningest teams.

Judge appeared to be struck on his pinkie by a 94.1 mph fastball from Albert Suárez (3-1) in the third inning. The slugger initially remained in the game but was lifted for a pinch hitter in the fourth. The Yankees said he was going to a hospital for scans.

RED SOX 4, BLUE JAYS 3

TORONTO (AP)—Ceddanne Rafaela had three hits, including a tiebreaking single in the eighth-inning, and Boston beat Toronto to earn a third straight series win.

Tyler O'Neill homered and scored twice and Rafael Devers had two hits as the Red Sox won for the seventh time in nine games.

Boston arrived in Toronto after taking two of three from Philadelphia and the New York Yankees, both division leaders.

Red Sox right-hander Zack Kelly (1-1) got four outs for the win as Boston improved to 35-8 when scoring four runs or more.

Rafaela singled in the fifth inning, doubled in the seventh, then drove in pinch-runner David Hamilton with a single off Blue Jays right-hander Chad Green in Boston's two-run eighth inning.

WHITE SOX 2, ASTROS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Jonathan Cannon pitched seven-hit ball into the ninth inning in his first major league win, helping the Chicago White Sox beat Houston.

Cannon, a third-round pick in the 2022 amateur draft, struck out four and walked one. He threw 106 pitches, 70 for strikes, in his fifth career start and sixth appearance overall.

Cannon received a warm ovation when he departed after Jon Singleton and Mauricio Dubón singled with two outs in the ninth. John Brebia then retired Victor Caratini on a grounder to first for his second save of the season.

CUBS 5, GIANTS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Cody Bellinger,

Ian Happ and Christopher Morel each had RBI singles in Chicago's three-run eighth inning and the Cubs beat San Francisco to end a two-game slide.

Michael Busch led off the eighth against reliever Tyler Rogers (0-2) with a double off the right-center wall, his second hit of the game. Bellinger followed by bouncing a his second hit barely through the left side of the infield to break a 2-all tie.

After Seiya Suzuki singled, Happ lined his second hit of the night down the right field line to make it 4-2. Morel pinch hit and added a ground-ball RBI single to cap the rally.

Dansby Swanson hit a two-run homer for the Cubs, who won for just fourth time in 12 games.

METS 7, RANGERS 6

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Pete Alonso hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning and the New York Mets extended their winning streak to a season-best seven games by rallying late for a victory over slumping Texas.

Texas had a 6-2 lead after a five-run fifth, its highest-scoring inning in six weeks, but the Mets scored in each of the last five innings.

Mark Vientos and Brandon Nimmo homered for New York (35-37), which has won 11 of 13 overall. Francisco Alvarez tied it at 6 on a two-run double with two outs in the eighth.

Rangers closer Kirby Yates (3-1) walked Nimmo with one out in the ninth. J.D. Martinez reached on a catcher's interference call and Alonso doubled into the left-field corner to give the Mets a 7-6 lead.

DODGERS 11, ROCKIES 9

DENVER (AP)—Jason Heyward hit a pinch-hit grand slam and Teoscar Hernandez added a three-run homer—all in a seven-run ninth inning—as the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied for a victory over Colorado.

Heyward's fourth career grand

slam came off Tyler Kinley and followed walks by Andy Pages and Miguel Vargas around a single by Miguel Rojas. Heyward's fourth homer of the season pulled the Dodgers within 9-8 with one out in the inning after trailing 7-2 after four innings.

Shohei Ohtani, who had a 476-foot homer in the fifth, singled off Victor Vodnik (1-1) before Will Smith struck out looking after attempting to step out of the batter's box on a 3-2 pitch.

TWINS 7, RAYS 6

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Carlos Santana's pinch-hit single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning pushed Minnesota past Tampa Bay for their sixth straight victory.

Manny Margot and Carlos Correa hit singles off closer Pete Fairbanks, who had Correa's comebacker glance off his throwing hand and force the Rays to summon Phil Maton.

Santana hit a 1-1 curveball into right field to easily score Margot and give the Twins their eighth win in nine games.

Max Kepler homered and Ryan Jeffers hit a sacrifice fly for the Twins to tie the game in the fifth, after Brandon Lowe and Josh Lowe hit home runs in the top of the inning for the Rays on each side of the stoppage that lasted an hour and 23 minutes.

ATHLETICS 7, ROYALS 5

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Zack Gelof hit his first home run in nearly three weeks and Oakland beat Kansas City to end a nine-game losing streak.

JJ Bleday had a career-high three doubles and drove in two runs, and Miguel Andujar added two hits to help Oakland to its first win since June 7.

Nick Loftin hit his first career home run and had three RBIs for the Royals, who have lost three of four.

Gelof, who entered in a 5-for-30 funk, singled and scored in the first inning and then hit a three-run homer off starter Alec Marsh (5-4) in the fourth.

BREWERS 6, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Sal Frelick robbed Taylor Ward of a tying home run with a leaping catch in center field for the final out of Milwaukee's victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

The Angels staged a three-run rally in the ninth and then got two more runners on base, bringing Trevor Megill into the game as the Brewers' third reliever of the inning.

Ward drove a 384-foot fly to center, but Frelick confidently ran back and made a one-handed grab on the warning track, stretching just above the yellow line representing the top of the outfield fence.

Christian Yelich hit his 200th career homer and rookie Tobias Myers pitched scoreless, four-hit ball into the seventh inning for the Brewers, who have won three of four. Jackson Chourio drove in three runs, including a two-run double that turned into a Little League homer on the Angels' third error of the night in the fourth.

It's already next season in NBA, where offseason almost nonexistent

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer



The offseason, technically, might have lasted for only about an hour. The Boston Celtics won the NBA Finals on Monday night, and when the clock rolled over to Tuesday morning, teams—in many cases—could start talking to their own free agents.

The on-court games are over, for now. Let the off-court games begin.

"This is a business," Miami Heat President Pat Riley said when his team's season ended last month, "as much as it is anything else."

The champion Celtics and Jayson Tatum can agree on an extension that will be worth a record \$315 million, though that record is probably going to get smashed annually over the next few years. There's an Olympics that will have tons of NBA representation. The Los Angeles Lakers and Cleveland Cavaliers still need to hire head coaches. LeBron James, who plays (for now at least) for the Lakers and used to play for the Cavs, can be a free agent. Bronny James—his oldest son—may be about to enter the league as a rookie, there's a draft that starts on June 26, and the Atlanta Hawks hold the No. 1 selection in what will be one of countless dominoes to fall this summer.

"I really enjoy our process that we've built out and the people that we've done it



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, left, celebrates next to Celtics co-owner Stephen Pagliuca, right, near the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy after the Celtics won the NBA championship with a Game 5 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Monday, June 17, 2024, in Boston.

with," Hawks general manager Landry Fields said. "At the end of the day, you all will be the judge of whether that was the right pick or not. For me, it's more looking at where are we at, what was our process, how are we assessing this current player and just rolling with it."

The new rule, part of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement, saying that teams can talk to their own free agents before the June 30 start of free agency means

that some deals can be agreed to—but not announced—even earlier than usual. Deals cannot be signed until July 6, in most cases. The penalties for rule-breakers on those fronts will be severe: fines of up to \$2 million, forfeiting of draft picks and suspension of team personnel involved in violations are among the NBA's options.

Some players will get a few million this summer. Some will get many millions. The creativity of teams and their

salary-cap gurus will be tested this summer, as always.

"You have to put a pencil to the bottom line," Riley said. "And then also you have to pencil in what the cost is going to be in the collateral damage of going over the first apron, the second apron and then the repeater tax."

Meanwhile, the NBA is going to secure billions before long. Billions and billions. The biggest deal—series of deals, really—in league history is likely about to close, that be-

ing the new media rights packages that the league has been negotiating for some time.

The current deals with ABC-ESPN and Turner Sports expire after next season and the NBA has been talking with NBC, ESPN and Amazon, among other networks and platforms, about what comes next. The numbers are staggering: 11 years and more than \$70 billion is the expectation, both dwarfing the current nine-year, \$24 billion deal.

"The global nature defi-

nately factors into the discussions," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "As all of the media companies, even the traditional ones, move towards streaming and have whether primary or adjacent streaming platforms, those platforms are increasingly global. And their ability to reach our fans around the world is a critical component of these discussions."

It's a mix of everything right now, some contracts that will extend for a decade, some that won't last past the end of Summer League in Las Vegas next month. There are big questions—will Golden State keep its core together, will San Antonio take a big swing to place more talent around rookie of the year Victor Wembanyama, where will James go, will Miami give Jimmy Butler the extension he seeks, will Donovan Mitchell stay in Cleveland, and on and on and on.

The only real certainties are these: There are 29 teams chasing the Celtics, and everyone is looking to get better. It starts with the draft, then free agency, and plenty of people around the NBA think this will be a summer filled with trades as well.

"Good players are really hard to find, like super hard to find," Oklahoma City general manager Sam Presti said. "Guys that can play consistently in the NBA and be in the NBA for more than three years ... that's actually harder than it sounds."

Welcome to next season, already in progress.

Analysis: It takes time to win, and that's a lesson Luka Doncic is learning

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Michael Jordan needed seven seasons to win his first title. LeBron James needed nine seasons and two futile trips to the NBA Finals before he became a champion. Shaquille O'Neal got swept in his first finals. And the newly crowned champion Boston Celtics lost the finals in 2022 and lost in the Eastern Conference finals last year before breaking through now.

The lesson, as everyone knows: Winning the biggest prize almost always takes time. Not always. But usually.

Such is the reality for Luka Doncic. At 25, he already is one of the best players in the world, if not the very best of the bunch. But he's not a champion. Not yet.

The wait for his first championship will extend until at least 2025, which really shouldn't be all that surprising. Doncic and the Dallas

Mavericks weren't a logical pick in this series against the Celtics; one was a 50-win team that caught fire at the end of the regular season, the other was a 64-win team that was better than everyone from the very beginning. The smart money said Dallas would fall in these finals, and that's what happened. It ended Monday night in Boston, the Celtics winning 106-88, an 18-point margin for their record-setting 18th title.

"They're a great team. They have been together for a long time, and they had to go through everything, so we just got to look at them, see how they play, the maturity, and they have some great players," Doncic said when it was all over Monday night. "We can learn from that. We've got to fight next season."

Let's be clear: Losing these NBA Finals should in no way be an indictment of Doncic. He could have played better,

of course. Smarter at times, for certain. He spent some of the finals arguing too often with referees. He knows that. That said, letting a finals loss take anything away from the first six years of his body of NBA work would be ridiculous.

He's scored 11,470 points so far, 15th most of anyone through their first six NBA seasons. Throw in his 3,472 rebounds and 3,317 assists, and Oscar Robertson is the only other player with such stats from Year 1 through Year 6. James came close. Jordan came close. But they didn't have those numbers.

It's not like this needs explaining, but just in case: Doncic—already a five-time All-NBA first-team selection—is on an absolute Hall of Fame trajectory.

"He's played as best as he can despite the circumstances, just injuries and stuff," Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving said

earlier in these finals. "He's been giving it his all."

Doncic played through knee and ankle issues in the playoffs. He had a thoracic contusion that required painkilling injections to get through the NBA Finals. He wasn't at his best, and he would have had to be otherworldly for Dallas to have had a real chance in this series.

He finished the playoffs as the leader in points, rebounds and assists anyway. Not the Mavs' leader, the NBA's leader.

"He's one of the best players in the world, and so I think the biggest thing for him is that we all would like to be healthy, but there's going to be bumps and bruises along the way," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "So, for him at the age of 25 to get to the finals, to be playing his basketball at the level that he's playing, now it's just being consistent. ... When you have one of the best players in the world, you

should be always fighting for a championship."

The Mavs felt that Doncic was the real MVP of the league this season, and their argument was compelling even though it didn't resonate much with voters. Kidd says Doncic's greatness gets taken for granted, which may be true. When Doncic gets it going, it's must-watch TV. He makes scoring look as easy as anyone has in this generation. He's not a high-flyer like Jordan, not someone who plays with the force, flair and power like James does. But when he's on, forget it.

He might not be "the" face of the league. But he's in the conversation, especially globally. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver watched Doncic closely on the day before the finals started and, in his own words, came away with yet another "example of how international this league is."

"Someone who grew up in Slovenia and trained in Madrid and Spain was doing interviews in three different languages," Silver said. "Again, many of you spend time with him, but he's an exemplar of the modern NBA."

The Mavs bristled at criticism Doncic took during the finals, but in some ways, that's welcome-to-the-club stuff. Jordan heard doubters. James still does. The Celtics, until Monday night, did as well. They don't doubt nobodies. Comes with the territory, and Kidd hopes Doncic converts it into fuel for his future.

"When you're on the biggest stage, someone's got to poke a hole," Kidd said. "This will only make the great ones better. When you look at ... LeBron, Michael, the greats, the GOATs, they all were poked at, and they came back stronger and better. I truly believe Luka will come back stronger and better."

'Everyone's performing really well'

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



MAJURO, Marshall Islands—

Yesterday marked five days into the 2024 Micronesian Games and the NMI delegation's stellar performance so far has surpassed their medal haul from the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

Chef de mission Valerie Hofschneider said in an interview yesterday morning that the NMI's 50 medals as of last Tuesday is "fantastic" and the teams have been "performing well."

With the teams that competed already, she said that the young fastpitch softball team have had some pretty tough competition, but still tried their best to keep up with the much more experienced teams. As for the women's basketball team, she said, "I could see how talented our ladies are and how great sportsmanship they have."

For the women's beach

volleyball team who bagged the first medal of the day last Tuesday, she said, "They did really well despite the heat."

With a few more days of competition left, she said, "I would hope to see [Team NMI] play fair, most especially have fun, and enjoy their time here."

The NMI National Swimming Team has garnered the most medals for the delegation with a total of 23 gold, 10 silver, and four bronze as of last Tuesday.

For beach volleyball, they won two bronze medals as the women's duo of Kathy Winkfield and Aurora Santos bagged the team's first medal with a bronze, while after, the men's duo of Jermaine Salas and Dylan Mister completed the medal haul for the beach volleyball team with a bronze as well.

In weightlifting, they won three gold medals, five silver medals, and four bronze medals. Kaya Rasa claimed the three gold medals, while Leowell Cristobal went home with two silver and one



NMI Women's National Fast Pitch Softball Team player Kiana Camacho slides into third base in the nick of time during their game against Palau yesterday in the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium.

bronze. Then, Riella Ichiuo scooped three silver medals and Antonette Labausa settled for three bronze medals.

Today, the athletics and tennis teams will get their first crack at the action.

NMI is seeded No. 1 for tennis and the team is confident in their abilities to medal. Young netters Irin Chung and Siwoo

Lee said they have had to adjust to a different court than they're used to, but said they've put in the work in their practices.

Stateside fly-ins Robbie Schorr and Isabel Herras will help lead the team along with Colin Ramsey.

Schorr, who flew in from Florida last Sunday, said, "We had time to get used to the



Weightlifter Antonette Labausa positions for her snatch attempt during her competition last Tuesday in the 2024 Micronesian Games at the International Convention Center in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

courts and we're looking forward to it—we think it's going to be good."

On the chance to represent the NMI again since the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, he said, "any chance I get to represent NMI, I'm going to take it. I love representing the NMI and I usually do pretty well, so I'm looking forward to it." As for the rest of the team under the coaching of Jeff Race, he said, "I'm confident in them. I think the team has a lot of potential and I think there will be good

things to come this week."

For athletics, coach Elias Rangamar said they've had their practice sessions in since they got here last Sunday. He said the venue is nice, although in the Marshalls, it is hot, so that will be a slight challenge. He then said some athletes will also compete in other events other than their original ones as the organizers want to spread and even out the competitors. Other than that, he said he's looking forward to the team competing.

SWIMMING

From page 16

in the women's 400-yard freestyle relay in 3:53.36.

Raho, meanwhile, seems to have gotten a liking in striking gold as she did so in the women's 500-yard freestyle (5:46.71) and women's 200-yard backstroke (2:18.12). Sari Barmen took the bronze in the former with a time of 6:14.29, while Litulumar bagged the silver in the latter in 2:20.38.

Aleksenko's two gold medals came in the men's 100-yard butterfly (47.09) and men's 100-yard IM (49.92), while also joining Pajarillaga, Michael Miller, and Kouki Watanabe to win gold in the men's 400-yard freestyle relay (3:17.87).

Pajarillaga was golden in the men's 500-yard freestyle (4:55.73) and the men's 200-yard backstroke

(1:56.04). In both events, Justin Ma took the bronze in 5:11.25 for the former and 2:10.70 for the latter.

Outside of the four, Watanabe managed to squirrel away a gold medal in the men's 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 54.82. He also came in third to Aleksenko in the men's 100-yard butterfly (54.82).

Batallones said she fought her hardest today in the 100-yard IM, which also was her best swim.

"I think I now know what stroke to train more when I get back home, which is the butterfly. I placed second, but I fought hard, and to me, it still feels like a win. The 100-yard IM felt the best because I placed first for that right after my 100-yard butterfly. Every stroke and turns I felt amazing. I saw myself ahead of everyone and I made sure to maintain my spot. Touching the wall and see-

ing my team celebrate my win made me really happy. I want to thank everyone who pushed me to my limits during training in and out of the pool. They remind me of how worth it all of it is in the end," she said.

Raho said the hardest part of yesterday's swims were the back-to-backs, but they were also the most fulfilling.

"My best swim was the 200-yard backstroke because I wasn't expecting to win. It was also after my 500-yard freestyle so I had to work to win the 200-yard backstroke. Again, I want to thank my family, friends, coaches, and swim mates," she said.

Pajarillaga said it feels great the CNMI just keeps winning gold medals in the Micro Games.

"I would say my best swim was my 200-yard backstroke. I felt like that was my best swim because I got the time I wanted

to get and I was ahead of the silver medalist by a lot. I want to thank my coach, his wife, my family, my friends, and the CNMI swimming team for believing in me," he said.

For Aleksenko, his best swim yesterday was the 100-yard butterfly.

"Because I was so close to the college record and I got a personal best. I would like to again thank God, my mom, my family, my coach, Miss Yuko [Kimura], and my teammates and friends," he said.

Despite winning two individual gold medals so far, Watanabe said his mission is still not complete.

"It's great that I was able to win the gold in the 100-yard breaststroke and 50-yard breaststroke, but I am not quite satisfied with the time I got. I will have to refine my techniques again so that I can reach for a faster

time next," he said.

National swimming coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Barman was amazing yesterday because at only 13 years old, she already medaled in the Micro Games. Same for Guerrero, the team's second Maria, who is also only 13 years old.

"Sari finally won a medal in an individual event! For her, this Micro Games is her first time in international competition and also her first time to represent the CNMI," he said.

The swimmers' 11-2-4

gold-silver-bronze haul gave the CNMI 37 gold medals, 16 silver, and 14 bronze, but Nauru went ahead in the medal tally thanks to their weightlifters as they sit atop with 46 gold medals, 10 silver, and 3 bronze. Third place currently is host Marshall Islands with 8 gold, 18 silver, and 26 bronze.

Incidentally, the CNMI is a mere eight medals away from eclipsing the record 44-gold medal output set in the 2010 Micro Games in Palau.

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be no more flights available. So, I don't really feel bad about the decision by [the NMIBF] and coach Ruf to not bring me to the Micro Games," he said.

Still, Cruz thinks it's a missed opportunity for him to once again don the latte stone and mwarmwar flag of the CNMI in the Micro Games after he also represented the islands in the 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament.

"I really wanted to play and I really want to give the CNMI a gold medal in the Micronesian Games before I retire. I'm already 33 and turning 34 in October. My goal is really to give the islands—the CNMI—a gold medal or at least any medal before I finally hang it up. I'm not LeBron so I cannot play [until I'm 40]," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lee, for his part, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* the scarcity of flights indeed

led to the decision not to bring Cruz anymore to the Marshall Islands.

"There were very limited available flights from the start going to Majuro. More so at the last minute. Jericho could maybe have to go through Australia from the Philippines, but that would have cost almost \$10,000 just for the airfare. Leaving the island after the games is also another story. Probably, he won't be able to leave until the first week of July," he said.

Cruz reassured the CNMI community that he remains steadfast in representing the islands he grew up in and developed his passion for basketball.

"I was really willing to play and I want to represent the islands I grew up in, but things didn't go our way and things didn't go my way. I really want to go out there and play with the boys. I'm still in their group chat. If I can fly now, I can go there as in right now and go play ball with them."

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we learn from this game, and win the rest of our games," she said.

With the men's basketball team's game in the afternoon, they blew a lead in the second half and lost to Chuuk, 38-58.

The NMI men's had a 19-7 lead at the end of the first quarter from fastbreak and aggressive plays. By the second, Chuuk was gaining confidence and executing their shots as NMI fumbled with their attempts at the basket.

At the turn of the half, the momentum swung fully to

the Chuuk team with multiple misses by NMI from within and out the perimeter. Chuuk continued to apply the pressure and caused multiple turnovers that they converted to fast-break plays, and from there, left NMI in their dust.

The NMI was reduced to just 3 points in the third quarter off a 3-pointer by Coby Santos. Santos tried his best to get the NMI back on track in the fourth and scored two more threes, but Chuuk held them down and kept their momentum going to seal the deal, 58-38.

Earlier in the hot summer Majuro day, the NMI Women's National Fast Pitch Soft-

ball Team let the heat get to them and lost to Palau, 2-13, in a shortened game.

Palau was up 5-0 by the second inning and NMI tried to recover in the next. They managed to get two runs on the board from Kianu Aldan and Kiana Camacho for a 2-5 game, but eventually failed to bring in the next baserunners.

Then, Palau showed NMI pitching no mercy as they scored three in the third and five more in the fourth to end the game on a 11-run deficit.

With their third loss in as many games, coach Manny Sablan said that they are still adjusting to a different environment and playing against

much more experienced teams. "There's a few hiccups but they're coming through in the game. At least in the three games that we played, we've been scoring and haven't been shut out," he said.

The challenge, he said, is "our pitching and going up against the different islands. Some of their players are trained in the mainland, so they're more advanced."

As they play host and No. 1 seed Republic of Marshall Islands again today at 10am, Sablan said it's crucial that they win. It's a double-elimination format and they have to beat RMI twice to advance to the medal round.



**Lodolo
cruises thru
7 innings for
5th straight
win for Reds**
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**'Everyone's
performing
really well'**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

11 more swimming golds; Nauru now atop medal tally

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

With Maria Batallones, Frances Raho, Kean Pajarillaga, and Isaiah Aleksenko adding two more individual gold medals each to their already impressive haul, the CNMI again exhibited utter domination of the swimming competition in the 2024 Microne-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Guerrero, a swimming official, Maria Batallones, and Frances Raho after their women's 400-yard freestyle relay event in the 2024 Micronesia Games yesterday in the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Kean Pajarillaga, Isaiah Aleksenko, Michael Miller, and Kouki Watanabe after their men's 400-yard freestyle relay event in the 2024 Micronesia Games yesterday in the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

sian Games yesterday in the isolated military outpost of Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

Batallones spearheaded the NMI National Swimming Team's efforts in the Kwajalein Pool by topping the women's 50-yard breaststroke in 31.05. Batallones dominated the women's 100-yard individual medley with a time of 1:02.16. She then teamed up with Raho, Maria Guerrero, and Shoko Litulumar to give the CNMI gold

After a hiccup in the women's 100-yard butterfly against Palau's Misech Dirngulbai (1:01.50-1:02.64), Batallones dominated the women's 100-yard individual medley with a time of 1:02.16. She then teamed up with Raho, Maria Guerrero, and Shoko Litulumar to give the CNMI gold



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COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Nauru	45	10	3	58
Northern Marianas	37	16	14	67
Marshall Islands	8	18	26	52
Palau	5	28	14	47
Pohnpei	9	7	0	16
Kiribati	2	3	7	12
Guam	2	1	0	3
Yap	0	0	2	2
Kosrae	0	0	0	0
Chuuk	0	0	0	0

PROUD SPONSORS OF TEAM MARIANAS

PLATINUM: SKECHERS, JOFEN DADA, MARIANA EXPRESS LINES, L.L.C.

GOLD: E-LAND, DQ, TakeCare

SILVER: RNV, DQ, TLE, GUIN, SLACK, Matson

BRONZE: P&A, Y.K. Corporation, Artman Corporation, I RAIKAN

NOTE: Only Northern Marianas' medal tally is updated. Other countries' medal tally is based on the unofficial results posted at the 2024 Micronesia Games website as of Wednesday.

Hoops teams fall short



LEIGH GASES

NMI Men's National Basketball Team player Antoni Ogomoro is fouled on an off-balanced shot during their game against Chuuk in the 2024 Micronesia Games at the Education & Cultural Center.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—The NMI Women's and Men's National Basketball Teams fell short in their matches of the 2024 Micronesia Games yesterday in a jampacked Education and & Cultural Center.

The women's team played a nail-biter to the finish, 37-

40, against host Republic of Marshall Islands, but still kept their top seeding in Pool B because of points differential.

RMI lost to Chuuk by one point, but NMI beat Chuuk by 25 points, and NMI beat Nauru on the first day.

It was never more than a 1- or 2-point lead for both teams as they took turns scoring and executing their attempts.

The lead swayed back-and-



LEIGH GASES

NMI Women's National Basketball Team player Madeleine Alegré gets fouled on a jumper during their game against Republic of Marshall Islands in the 2024 Micronesia Games at the Education & Cultural Center.

forth throughout until NMI secured a two-point lead at the end of the third quarter, 31-29, from a buzzer beater by Alliyah Fernandez.

Apparent fouls were not being called in favor of the NMI which eventually swayed the momentum to RMI at the fourth quarter. The biggest lead of the game was 6 points, 32-38, as RMI sunk in a 3 after a 32-35 lead.

Then, come crunch time, crucial plays and free throws

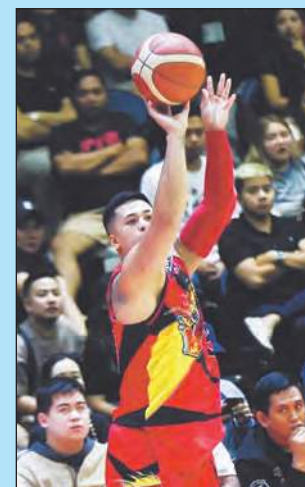
were not made by NMI as time dwindled. With less than half a second left and the NMI's possession, they failed to secure a tie-making play.

Coach Connie Camacho said postgame that, "We just got to execute on offense. We didn't make a lot of the shots we usually make—we missed some layups, but our defense was pretty good."

"It was so close—it was up and down, and hopefully,

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Jericho won't join Team NMI in Majuro



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jericho Cruz in action for the San Miguel Beermen in the PBA.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Former CNMI national cager Jericho Cruz will no longer suit up for the NMI Men's National Basketball Team even after his team in the Philippine Basketball Association, San Miguel Beer, ended its campaign last Sunday with a Game 6 loss to eventual champions Meralco Bolts.

"I told coach Ruf [Rufino Aguin], I told James [Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Association president James Lee] after the game (Game 6) that I'm ready but they told me there are no more flights available or something. I won't come

anymore because they told me they can't book a flight for me to go there (Majuro) anymore so I said 'OK,'" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 6'1" former Marianas High School Dolphin, who also plays for Guam in FI-BA-sanctioned tournaments, said it's unfortunate because he believes he could've been an X factor for the team.

"I know I could've been a big help to the team. My teammates from the Guam National Basketball Team are not going as they're bringing a very young team," said Cruz, who has so far averaged 10.1 points, 3.1 rebounds, and 2.4 assists in 314 total games in the PBA.

Prior to the decision to not bring him to the 2024 Micronesia Games, Cruz already told *Saipan Tribune* about his commitment to the CNMI national team, saying "I just want to give back, man. I want to show them that my heart is always with Saipan [and the CNMI]. That's where I started my basketball career and I want to be back."

Cruz, who averages 14.7 points, 4.2 rebounds, and 4.3 assists playing in 10 games for Guam, said he understands the NMIBF's decision not to bring him to Majuro.

"I'm thinking there might

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